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ARTS NOTES

Opera company to debut Saturday in Rockville

By Henry Scarupa

The curtain parts on the new Maryland State Opera Company at 7 p.m. Saturday with an inaugural gala at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in Rockville. Featured will be favorite arias and duets from "Don Giovanni," "Othello," "Tosca" and other popular operas. Ulysses James will conduct the orchestra and Dennis Owens, a radio personality with WGMS-AM and FM in Washington, will serve as master of ceremonies. The dream of Gabriella D'Andrey of Silver Spring, who is underwriting the early effort, the company will draw on local vocal talent. In December the MSOC plans a three-day festival with fully staged productions of "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci," along with a performance of Handel's "Messiah" on the final day. It expects to mount its first full season in 1989-'90.

A native of Hungary, Ms. D'Andrey grew up in an artistic family, with a mother who was an accomplished painter and an aunt who sang opera. Given this background, she went on to become an artist and singer herself. Marriage to a U. S. Army officer, the late Lt. Col. John G. Moses Jr., brought her to the United States and to a home in Maryland. Along the way she helped organize a symphony orchestra on Okinawa, where her husband was stationed.

Tickets for the gala are $25, $30 and $35, and $100 for the pre-performance cocktail party and after-concert buffet. Call Ticketron at (800) 233-4050.

Volunteers needed

Both the Baltimore Museum of Art and Cockpit in Court are recruiting volunteers. The BMA is seeking to add to its corps of docents, the knowledgeable and articulate guides who lead schoolchildren and adult groups on tours of the various exhibitions. A background in art or art history is useful but not required. Application deadline is June 15. Call the museum's education department at 396-6320.

At the Essex Community College summer theater, volunteers will be working backstage on scenery and assisting with costumes, makeup and other details relating to the production during the 10-week season, June 10-Aug. 14. They can choose to earn an apprentice certificate or college credit. Call F. Scott Black at 522-1434.

Audition

Covered Bridge Theatre is holding auditions for "Oliver!" Needed are youngsters age 13 and up. At the theater, 105 Railroad Ave., Elkton, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. today. Call (301) 392-3780.

Another scholarship

Collecting scholarships and awards is old hat for 17-year-old Paul Herzog of Essex, a senior at Baltimore County's Chesapeake High School. Today at 1 p.m. at ceremonies at the World Trade Center, the Maryland Artists Equity Foundation will award him a $3,000 scholarship to study visual arts. At the same time runners-up Kacie Woodard of Walt Whitman High in Bethesda and Penelope Hand of Centennial High in Howard County will be awarded scholarships in the amount of $1,000 and $500. For Paul, who plans to continue his art education at the Maryland Institute, College of Art, this brings the total awards received this year to $29,250. Jim Kuhlman, his art teacher at Chesapeake High for the past 2½ years, calls him "almost frighteningly good . . . overwhelming."

"Paul is already moving into areas of art that aren't quite safe [because of their newness]," he says of his star pupil. "He's learning to combine materials and techniques in ways that don't have names yet." Along with ranking in the top 10 percent of his class, Paul has also been playing goalie with the school's soccer team.

Juggling jokes, knives

It's hard keeping humorous patter flowing in front of an audience and it's just as tough juggling knives and cleavers, but Michael Davis does both at the same time and makes it all seem easy. On June 9, Mr. Davis, with puppeteer Bob Hartman, opens at Center Stage for a run through the 26th. A black-tie gala follows on the 10th with a supper preceding the performance and a dessert buffet with music by Swing Central coming after the show. Tickets for the Center Stage fund-raiser are $150 apiece and the proceeds will benefit the Associate Artists, the Playwrights-in-Schools program and Mainstage productions.

Call 332-0033 for tickets and information.

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